

The Yellow Fever.

In the *Medical Investigator* for October, V. H. Holcombe, M. D., of New Orleans, says of this malady:

This scourge of the tropics is a peculiar, red-marked disease, generally epidemic and contagious, rarely occurring twice in the same system. It has ravaged all our seaboard cities and towns from New York to Galveston, and has penetrated several hundred miles up the Savannah, Alabama and Mississippi rivers. New comers and unacclimated persons suffer most severely, especially fatal to drunks, pregnant women and young children. It is very mild when occurring in the negro race. In Spaniards, Frenchmen, Italians, and native-born Southerners; it is more severe in Northerners; in Englishmen still more so; and it is most fatal to Irish and Germans. It is a disease of the hot months—summer and autumn. Its average duration is about a week, and the deaths generally occur between the third and sixth days. The convalescence is sometimes very slow.

Yellow fever generally begins with a sudden chill, oftentimes in the middle of the night, followed rapidly by intense fever, burning skin, great thirst, excruciating headache, backache, and pains in the limbs. The eyes are suffused, watery, and tinged, as if they had been exposed to a pungent smoke arising from green coal. The tongue seems thickened, the pointed, and the edges red, while a thick white or yellow fur coats its center. There is sometimes a good deal of mucous bilious vomiting. The nausea, sense of oppression, restlessness, and the depression of spirits sometimes expressed in the maintenance are remarkable.

These symptoms can scarcely be distinguished from those which occur in the first stage of severe bilious fever, typhoid fever, malarial fever, dengue, or any other violent febrile disorder. The red, smoky appearance of the eyes, and the dark, suffused, and sad or stern expression of countenance, are to the experienced observer the most suspicious symptoms. At the beginning of an epidemic few physicians could risk their reputation by declaring a case to be yellow fever in this first stage. For the disease has become fully developed all other forms of fever disappear, or the yellow fever type. The first stage is from twenty-four to forty-eight or sixty hours, after which the fever subsides, the skin becomes moist, and the patient eases. A great many mild cases of yellow fever end here, and, with good nursing, the patient has a rapid recovery.

The second stage is one of abatement or amelioration—sometimes awfully deceptive. In some cases the fever entirely disappears, tongue becomes perfectly natural, the patient feels hungry, and wants to get up and dress, while in reality the most terrible changes are impending. This stage calls for the strictest nursing and watching. The symptoms which should make you double your diligence and apprehend the third stage, or that of collapse, are the following: Voracious hunger, with a painful gnawing sensation in the stomach, continued wakefulness, frequent waking of phlegm from the throat, and tingling in the mouth, flatulence and rumbling in the bowels, a strange feeling of adhesion and weight about the abdomen, the appearance of a light lemon tint to the white of the eyes. A very slow rise, a little lightness of mind, a pronounced apathy of manner, and a countenance expressive of anxiety and gloom, also bad symptoms of this period of disease.

Third Stage.—Sometimes this second stage is but faintly marked, or is very brief, and the symptoms of the third are rapidly developed. The prominent features of this alarming condition are the following: tingling in the pit of the stomach, frequently ascending into the throat; pain, sometimes violent in both stomach and bowels; diarrhoea of a brown or black color; very yellow urine, sometimes own, like porter; increasing yellowness of the skin; eruptions and hiccough; zing of blood from the gums or throat; constant tossing about without sleep; the weak, rapid and fluttering, or else slow and soft, with cold extremities; delirium, sometimes mild and muttering, sometimes furious; frequent vomiting, sometimes without nausea, of a yellowish-brown liquid, or of a claret-colored water, of mucus or phlegm mixed here and there with many little dark brown specks, resembling the wings or legs of flies, or the pieces of cobweb, or sometimes of food, either pure or more or less mixed with the above elements. If the disease now arrested you may expect the much-dreaded black vomit—which is vital blood, looking like coffee grounds or riddles of soot or snuff suspended in water to the consistency of thin molasses, total suppression of urine, profound apor, and convulsions often precede death. The yellowness of the skin is not used by a suppression of the bile, nor the black vomit the product of depraved action in the liver or stomach, but all symptoms of the third stage are due to a poisoning of the blood—a terrible and physical and chemical alteration of its properties, rendering it unfit to maintain

—The Gold Hill (Nevada) News says: A Irishman, a resident of this city, noted his wit upon all occasions, and also for successful attacks on the tiger, was proceeding home the other evening, and when he had reached the divide was stopped by two footpads and told to "hold up his hands." The robbers knew he had made large winning and got off with it, and ceased him for the purpose of waylaying him. But did not scare worth a cent, and when stopped quietly asked the robbers what they wanted. They answered, "We want your money." Pat, quietly clutching his ducats, said: "O, murther, further! but ye fellows are awful thick tonight." "Awful thick!" said one of the robbers, "What do you mean?" "I mean," said Pat, "that this is the fourth time I was stopped since I left Virginia." One of the men, disgusted with himself to think that others of the profession had got ahead of him, struck Pat on the neck and then kicked him, saying: "Get out here, or I'll blow the top of your head off." Pat did "get" willingly, and arrived safely at home with \$700 in coin in his pocket.

The Queen proposes to make her son-law Lorne a peer, that he may sit in the House of Lords. As a part of the royal milfy, it is not permissible for him to take part in the political debates of the House of Commons. Hence the elevation,

THINGS WORTH REMEMBERING.

—Alum or vinegar is good to set colors—red, green or yellow.

—Salt-soda will bleach: one spoonful is sufficient for a kettle of clothes.

—Save your seeds for the garden and plants, or to harden yards when sandy.

—A hot shovel held over varnished furniture will take out spots.

A bit of glue dissolved in skin-milk and water will restore old rusty crapes.

—Ribbons of any kind should be washed in cold suds and not rinsed.

—If the flat-irons are rough, rub them well with salt, and it will make them smooth.

—If you are buying a carpet for durability, you must choose small figures.

—A bit of soap rubbed on the hinges of doors will prevent them from creaking.

—Scotch snuff, if put in the holes where crickets run out, will destroy them.

—Green should be the prevailing color for bed hangings and window drapery.

—Enamelled preserving kettles are the best for general use, and are kept clean easily.

—In covering jams and marmalades, always use writing paper over which the beaten white of an egg has been brushed.

—Scaly legs on fowls are mainly caused by damp runs and yards, and can be cured by one or more applications of an equal mixture of turpentine and sweet oil.

—As a cure for corns the *Medical Press* and *Circular* says: Castor oil should be applied to the corns after paring closely each night before going to bed. It softens the corns, which become as the other flesh. It will cure every time.

—Salt and wood ashes are necessary (at least useful) for growing pigs when on fresh green feed. Fresh water should be easy of access to them and abundant. If pigs are filthy in their habits it is usually because they are educated by their owners.

—A grafter by profession says the most successful method he has found to keep scions in a fresh, healthy state is to layer them down in good clean sawdust, slightly damp. He says they do far better than placing the ends in the earth or layering in the sand.

—You can soften water by adding carbonate of soda (washing soda) as long as a whitish precipitate is formed. Let it settle, and draw off the clear water above. Sometimes simple boiling will render the water, after settling, fit for washing.

—The surest and simplest way to gather flower seeds is to cut the stalks when the seed is mature, and put them in a bag, and downward into paper bags, of course keeping each species separate. As the blossoms ripen the stalks are cut every few days and added to the collection. As the seeds dry and fall from the stalks they are collected in the bottoms of the bags. The mouths of the bags should be tied with a string, by which they should be hung up in a dry, cool place.

—The following is a cheap and simple process for coating canvas for wagon tops, tents, awnings, etc.: It renders it impermeable to moisture, without making it stiff and liable to break. Soft soap is to be dissolved in hot water, and a solution of sulphate of iron added. The sulphuric acid combines with the potash of the soap, and the oxide of iron is precipitated with the fatty acid as insoluble iron soap. This is washed and dried, and mixed with linseed oil. The addition of dissolved indiarubber to oil improves the paint.

A Struggle with a Devil Fish.

Mr. Charles B. Brainard, of Boston, in writing to the *Scientific American* about specimens of the devil fish, relates this interesting incident:

The strength which these creatures possess is almost beyond comprehension, as is evinced by what took place when my pet (C) was captured. He had seized hold of a sub-marine diver, at work in the wreck of a sunken steamer off the coast of Florida. The man was a powerful Irishman, who claimed to weigh three hundred pounds. His size and build fully verified his statement, and, to use his own language, "the bastie landed on top of my shoulders and pinned my arms tight." I felt my armor and myself being cracked into a jelly. It seems that he was just about being brought to the surface, else the monster would have killed him, for he was suffering so from the terrible embrace that he could move no part of himself. When dragged on to the raft from which he had descended, and finally released, he had fainted. The men on the raft seized the fish by one of its wriggling arms and tried to pull it off, but could not break the power of a single one of the suckers. The fish was only removed by being dealt a heavy blow across the sack containing the stomach. This sack stood stiffly up above the eyes, while the eyes stood out like lobsters' eyes and gleamed like fire. The monster is, in all, one of the most frightful apparitions it could be the fate of man to meet. It fulfills every particular the horrible features attributed to it in Victor Hugo's "Toilers of the Sea." Notwithstanding the severity with which the able Frenchman has been criticised for "creating a nondescript with his weird imagination," the truth must be granted that his "nondescript" has an actual existence, as is evidenced by the specimens in Brighton and Hamburg, as well as my own.

Cotton Culture in Kansas.

Hon. E. M. Hullett, of this city, a successful farmer, as well as a brilliant lawyer, determined to settle by actual experiment the question of the possibility of successfully cultivating cotton in this country. For this purpose he planted twelve acres upon his farm, on Moore's branch, four miles southwest of the city, and the result is in shape to be investigated. We have before us two stalks taken from the field; they are about four and a half feet high, and each bears about fifty bolls. From eight to ten bolls on each stalk are now open, exhibiting a good yield of cotton which judges of the staple say is of about the same quality as the upland cotton of the South.

Mr. Reynolds, of East Fort Scott, formerly a large cotton planter in Mississippi, has inspected the crop and estimates that the yield will be one bale to the acre.

Taking into consideration the facts that the cotton was planted a month later than it should have been—and improperly plant-

ed at that; that it has not had proper cultivation, this yield far exceeds the most sanguine expectations. If this estimate is correct the profit on the crop will not be less than \$50 per acre—a somewhat handsome return for raising corn or wheat or any of the crops usually cultivated in this latitude.

As the matter now seems demonstrated beyond a peradventure, we shall expect next season to see hundreds of acres of the king of staples covering our prairies.—*Fort Scott Monitor*.

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